What is claimed is:

1.   A system for operating a storage device, the system comprising:

a management server;

5   a media agent connected to the management server;

a storage device connected to the media agent; and

a database connected to the management server; wherein

the management server controls the media agent to monitor for the addition or

removal of a piece of media in the storage device; and

10   when the media agent determines that the piece of media has been added to the

storage device or removed from the storage device, the media agent causes the storage

device to read a media label stored as data on the piece of media, the media label

including an identifier identifying the piece of media.

15   2.   The system as recited in claim 1, wherein:

the storage device returns the piece of media to a slot in the storage device; and

the management server updates a slot table in the database with a confidence

parameter indicating a confidence level of the piece of media stored in the slot.

20   3.   The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the storage device does not have

a bar code reader.

4.   A system for operating a storage device, the system comprising:

a management server;

a media agent connected to the management server;

a storage device connected to the media agent; and

a database connected to the management server; wherein

5   the management server controls the media agent to monitor for the addition of a

piece of media in the storage device; and

when the media agent determines that the piece of media has been added to the

storage device, the media agent causes the storage device to write a media label stored as

data on the piece of media, the media label including an identifier identifying the piece of

10   media.

5.   A system for backing up data in a storage device, the system comprising:

a management server;

a media agent connected to the management server;

15   a storage device connected to the media agent; and

a database connected to the management server; wherein

the storage device loads a piece of media;

the storage device stores a media label as data on the piece of media, the media

label including an identifier identifying the piece of media; and

20   the media agent transfers backup data to the piece of media.

6.   The system as recited in claim 5, wherein the management server updates

the database based on the media label.

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7.   The system as recited in claim 6, wherein the management server updates

a slot table in the database with a time that the media label was stored.

5   8.   The system as recited in claim 5, wherein if the piece of media has been

used, the storage device looks for an unused piece of media.

9.   A system for transferring data between a data source and a desired piece

of media, the system comprising:

10   a management server;

a data source connected to the management server;

a media agent connected to the management server;

a storage device connected to the media agent; and

a database connected to the management server; wherein

15   the storage device loads a test piece of media;

the storage device reads a media label stored as data on the test piece of media,

the media label including an identifier identifying the test piece of media; and

the media agent transfers data between the data source and the test piece of media

when the media label corresponds to the desired piece of media.

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10.   The system as recited in claim 9, wherein when the test piece of media

does not correspond to the desired piece of media, the storage device searches for the

desired piece of media.

11.   The system as recited in claim 9, wherein when the test piece of media

does not correspond to the desired piece of media, the system indicates that the desired

piece of media has been exported from the storage device.

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12.   A storage device system comprising:

a management server;

a media agent connected to the management server;

a storage device connected to the media agent; and

10   a database connected to the management server; wherein

the storage device includes a plurality of pieces of media, each piece of media

including a respective media label stored as data on the respective piece of media, each

media label including a respective identifier identifying the respective piece of media.

15   13.   A method of performing an inventory of media stored in a storage device

system, the storage device system including a management server, a media agent

connected to the management server, a storage device connected to the media agent, and

a database connected to the management server, the method comprising:

loading a piece of the media stored in a slot of the storage device into a drive;

20   reading a media label stored as data on the piece of media, the media label

including an identifier identifying the piece of media; and

storing the identifier in the database in association with an indication of the slot.

14.   The method as recited in claim 13, further comprising repeating the loading, reading, and storing steps for all slots in the storage device.

15.   The method as recited in claim 13, further comprising storing in the
5   database a confidence parameter in association with the identifier, the confidence parameter indicating that the storage device system is confident that the piece of media corresponding to the identifier is stored in the slot indicated in the database.

16.   The method as recited in claim 13, further comprising storing in the
10   database a time, in association with the identifier, when the inventory was performed.

17.   The method as recited in claim 13, further comprising taking the storage device system off line for a backup or a restore when the inventory is being performed.

15   18.   The method as recited in claim 15, further comprising modifying the confidence parameter to indicate that the storage device system is not confident that the piece of media corresponding to the identifier is stored in the slot indicated in the database when the storage device determines that any piece of media has been added to or removed from the storage device.

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19.   The method as recited in claim 16, further comprising searching for a desired piece of media based on the respective times stored in the database.

20. The method as recited in claim 13, further comprising repeating the loading, reading, and storing steps for all slots in the storage device for which a respective confidence parameter in the database indicates a confidence level of not-known.

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21. A computer readable storage medium including computer executable code for enabling a system to transfer data between a data source and a desired piece of media, the system comprising a management server, a data source connected to the management server, a media agent connected to the management server, a storage device connected to

10   the media agent, and a database connected to the management server, the computer readable storage medium including data for performing the steps of:

controlling the storage device to load a test piece of media;

controlling the storage device to read a media label stored as data on the test piece of media, the media label including an identifier identifying the test piece of media; and

15   controlling the media agent to transfer data between the data source and the test piece of media when the media label corresponds to the desired piece of media.